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DIVISION OF PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

## **ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSE COMMITTEE MINUTES (Approved November 16, 2015)**

The Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Committee held a meeting on October 26, 2015 at 2:30 p.m., in Conference Room A, Cannon Building, 861 Silver Lake Boulevard, Dover, DE.

- PRESENT:** Sandy Elliott, CNM; Stephen Lawless, MD; Megan Williams, DNP, FNP-C ; Leena Paul, MD; Delphos Price, CRNA
- ABSENT:** Cindy Cunningham, PMHCNS/NP, Tejal Patel, PharmD
- GUESTS:** Sarah Carmody, Executive Director DNA; Jill Englund Jensen, DNP, RN, FNP-BC
- PRESIDING:** Megan Williams, DNP, FNP-C
- STAFF:** Peggy Mack, PhD, APRN, PMHCNS, Executive Director, Delaware Board of Nursing;  
Meaghan Jerman, Board Liaison, Delaware Board of Nursing;  
Jennifer L. Singh, Deputy Attorney General, Delaware Department of Justice

**1.0 CALL TO ORDER:** Dr. Williams called the meeting to order at 2:47 p.m.

### **2.0 NEW BUSINESS:**

Dr. Williams reviewed composition of the new APRN committee. The committee introduced themselves and discussed their purpose and goals in context to the newly signed APRN legislation. Ms. Singh will review current language for change from APNs to APRNs.

### **2.1 Draft Rules and Regulations**

The committee discussed how they would begin drafting rules and regulations. The development of competencies, benchmarks, and metrics will be addressed.

#### Collaborative Agreement

The committee discussed: what must be achieved during the collaborative agreement to show competency for all four APRN roles: Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists, Nurse Practitioners, Clinical Nurse Specialists, and Certified Nurse Midwives. The APRN committee members discussed the need to review national standards related to independent practices for all four APRN roles (certified registered nurse anesthetists, certified nurse midwives, certified clinical nurse specialists, and certified

nurse practitioners). Dr. Williams noted that a distinction needed to be made when reviewing national standards to consider Delaware's needs and trends.

Mr. Price made a motion, seconded by Dr. Paul, for the APRN members of the committee to review their respective national standards and scopes of practice and to provide a summary to Dr. Mack a week prior to the next meeting. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

#### Prescriptive Authority

The committee discussed the process for prescriptive authority for new graduates. Mr. Price noted that all masters' level nursing programs should encompass the required courses: Pathophysiology, Health Assessment, and Pharmacology. The committee agreed that from September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015 on, new graduates, who have completed all of the appropriate educational course work, may be issued prescriptive authority. Licensees will still need to obtain a separate controlled substance registration to prescribe controlled substances.

Mr. Price made a motion, seconded by Ms. Elliott, that all newly licensed APRNs who recently graduated will be granted prescriptive authority. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

The committee discussed those individuals who previously obtained prescriptive authority through the Board of Nursing. The pharmacology continuing education requirement for role and population foci was noted. The committee agreed that current holders of prescriptive authority will continue to hold such authority, provided renewal requirements, including the pharmacology continuing education requirement, are satisfied.

Mr. Price made a motion, seconded by Ms. Elliott, that current holders of APRN licensure with prescriptive authority are grandfathered to maintain such authority, provided they complete all requirements for the biennial renewal of prescriptive authority. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

### **2.2 Draft Application for Licensure for Independent Practice**

The committee discussed the process for applying for licensure for independent practice. It was noted that nurses already with independent practice may need to be grandfathered.

Questions considered included: what must be accomplished during the collaborative agreement to show competency; what are the benchmarks; how are the collaborative hours measured; what activities fulfill the collaborative agreement (e.g. do chart reviews count, types of patient encounters); when independent practice is granted, how will it be substantially related to the population; how is substantially related defined; what are the limitations of independent practice?

Additional discussion included: handling requests for APRNs' endorsement; language "clean up" – Joint Practice Committee, APN; how might grievances be handled; how are role and population foci understood.

### **3.0 OTHER BUSINESS (for discussion only)**

Dr. Williams reviewed recent inquiries that the Division has received, and clarified that APRN's can sign death certificates. Dr. Williams also clarified that at this time APRNs in Delaware cannot authorize hospice and home health care. Other APRNs are asking about the process for obtaining independent practice and how are the collaborative hours measured.

Dr. Lawless inquired about the complaint process moving forward. Ms. Singh reviewed the statute and

clarified that any APRN discipline that is a deviation from the standard of care will be reviewed and approved by the Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline. There will be additional discussion on this matter moving forward.

#### **4.0 PUBLIC COMMENT**

Dr. Englund Jensen stated that in the event that an APRN has a pending complaint and subsequent discipline, she would hope her peers would also be included in reviewing the case. Dr. Lawless agreed with this feedback.

Sarah Carmody requested clarification for APRNs to not only sign death certificates, but also about signing for motor vehicle placards. She also provided feedback and comments regarding the committee's discussion.

**NEXT MEETING –** The next meeting will be held on November 16, 2015 at 4 p.m. in Conference Room A. The Committee also scheduled their December meeting for December 7, 2015 at 4 p.m. in Conference Room A.

**ADJOURNMENT –** The meeting was adjourned at 5:17 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Peggy Mack".

Peggy Mack, PhD, APRN, PMHCNS  
Executive Director, Delaware Board of Nursing